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PRESS RELEASE

The Indonesian military maneuver in Dili on the 12th of November has caused a great wave of concern across Indonesia for the East Timorese people. This concern has taken various forms including peace demonstrations both across Indonesia and abrbad. The incident has elicited a strong reaction among these groups absolutely rejecting the use of violence and weapons against the people. Too often problems in Indonesia are handled by force. There is enough evidence that the use of force only results in making victims and taking human lives.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST VIOLENCE

NOVEMBER 21, 1991

at PARAHYANGAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, BANDUNG

Held in spontaneous expression of Solidarity of the University Students and Youth of Indonesia for the people of East Timor, and the families of the victims of the Bloody Dili Tragedy of 12 November 1991. In sympathy and expression of solidarity :

1. We fully support the efforts of the Indonesian Government in handling the Tragedy in Dili of 12 November 1991 as completely as possible with honest and fair intentions in exposing the events to the Indonesian people, in addition to following all formal legal procedures in proving guilty parties without exception.

2. We fully support every effort of the Indonesian Government in their commitment to caring for the victims of the shootings and their families in a humane way.

3. We reject the use of the Indonesian military forces in the November 12 incident in Dili, in return demand a guarantee from the Indonesian Government that such an event will never occur again.

4. We reject the use of force and military strength in all civilian efforts to express an opinion, written or oral, as individuals or as a group, except for the assitance of the police in ensuring the safety of the demonstrators.

Bandung, 21 November 1991

SOLIDARITY ACTION OF THE STUDENTS AND YOUTH OF INDONESIA FOR THE EAST TIMORESE

CHRONOLOGY OF THE ARREST OF THE BANDUNG STUDENTS IN THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST VIOLENCE - SOLIDARITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR

Thursday, 21 November 1991

No less than 300 students from various Bandung universities gathered in the basketball court of the Parahyangan Catholic University (Unpar) at 9.30 a.m.. The universities represented included Padjadjaran University (Unpad), Bandung Islamic University (Unisba), Academy of Public Works (ATPU), Institute of Economic Science of Bandung (STIEB), and Unpar. The event followed plans as anticipated until an Assistant Rector directed campus police, student police, and others to interfere, provoking the demonstrating students by tearing down their posters and attempting to break up the demonstration.

Meanwhile, students continued their peaceful demonstration singing national songs, and a few of the students began an improvisation of dying from gunshot wounds. With the shouts from the Assistant Rector and efforts of the campus police to break up the demonstration and rip down posters, the atmosphere and focus of the demonstration was destroyed. Posters and banners were torn down despite the fact that the slogans were "neutral", calling for peace, denouncing the use of violence, and quoting comments of Indonesian bureacrats from the Indonesian newspapers. Military/intelligence agents (Intel) were also present having attempted to infiltrate the student demonstration. Plainclothes police, by Indonesian law not allowed to enter campus grounds, were waiting on the edges of the campus.

Students struggled against the physical attempts of the Campus police, student police, and Intel to remove several of the demonstrators by force. The Unpar students participating in the demonstration were unable to prevent the military from taking the demonstrators from the campus. The police succeeded in taking ten students who struggled as they were hit and pulled into the police vehicles. The ten students taken for detention were:

1. Pius - Unpar
2. Bambang - Unpar
3. Agus Jaya - Unpad
4. Andrinovi - Unpad
5. Daniel - Unpad
6. Dadak - Unpad
7. Asep - Unpad
8. Yoshi - Unpad
9. Edo - Unisba
10. Rizal - STIEB

Friday, 22 November 1991

More than 700 students from various universities in Bandung gathered at 10:00 a.m. to demonstrate on behalf of those arrested the previous day in the North parking lot of Padjadjaran University (Unpad), Bandung. Universities represented included those of the previous day : Unpad, Unisba, ATPU, STIEB, Unpar, in addition to the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and Bandung Institute of Law (STHB).

The demonstration began with speeches from several of the students on the arrest of their comrades the previous day, as well as of the ill conduct of the military in Indonesia, and of the loss of autonomy by students over their campuses due to strong intervention of the other bodies such as rectors, military, and political party interests in student affairs. The Assistant Rector attempted to interrupt the demonstraton by announcing that the students arrested the previous day had already been released.

The students did not believe the rector, but sent a delegation of students to the place where the students were being detained (Polwiltabes - Regional Police Office of Bandung) to confirm that the Assistant Rector was not lying to the students. Meanwhile the student demonstration continued with poetry reading, more speeches, music, and improvisation. Until several students read the following statements:

1. Reject the unjust arrest of the participants in the Thursday Demonstration Against the Violence.

2. Demand for the immediate release of the ten students detained for their involvement in the Demonstration Against Violence within 24 hours of their arrest as Indonesian legal procedures require for arrest without warrant.

3. Demand for the Rectors, Campus Officials, and Professors of each campus to take responsibility for the release of the ten students. In addition, Rectors must sweep the campus clean of all elements of destruction to campus solidarity and enable the campus to function autonomously for the students.

4. Call for the solidarity of all Indonesian youths and students to struggle together to uphold their rights and the rights of all marginalized peoples.

The statements motivated the group, which had grown to 800 students, to march to Polwiltabes and demand the release of the students detained from the earlier demonstration.

Outside the campus, approximately 100 armed security forces stood on guard (including the anti-mob, mobile brigade, and police) ready to move in on the demonstrators. Before any clash with the military could occur, the student delegation returned and announced that the ten students had been released. The students then waited until one of their released comrades spoke before the crowd. He told them of his interrogation and encouraged the crowd to .continue to struggle in solidarity as one body of students fighting for justice and truth for all.

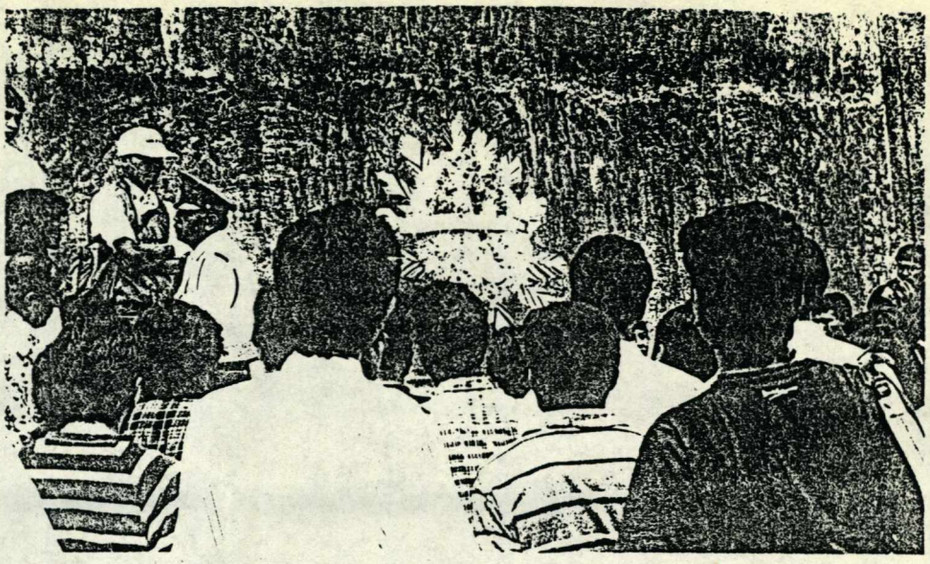
By evening, it came to the attention of the students that one of their comrades, Andri, a 23 year old social politics major at Unpar. had been arrested Friday morning by the District Military Command (Kodim) while distributing invitations to the Unpad demonstration.

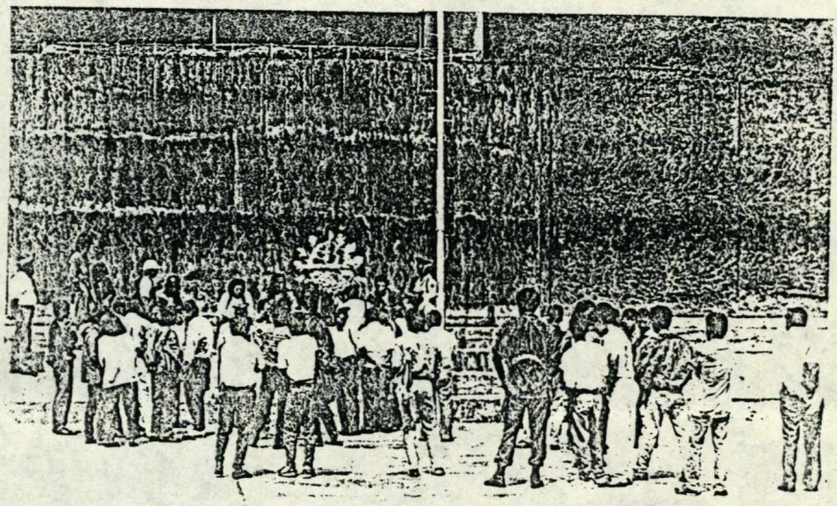
Saturday, 23 November 1991

Andri remains in detention at Polwiltabes. Andri has received the warrant for his arrest with the possible charge of violating article 157 of Criminal Law that relates to the contempt of the state. His parents have requested that Andri be released until he is called to court. However, they have not yet received any definite answer. Students are making every effort to have Andri released from detention. Having estimated that another demonstration will only aggravate the situation, the students have resolved to implement an information campaign.

Bandung, 23 November 1991

SOLIDARITY FRONT FOR BANDUNG STUDENTS





SOURCE : KPMURI BANDUNG

TEMPO, 30 NOVEMBER 1991